

**APPENDIX H**

Regional Habitat  
Conservation Planning  
Documents Relevant  
to the MCCWA

(hyperlinked)

## Regional Habitat Conservation Planning Documents Relevant to the MCCWA

*Organized by Planning Entity*

### **California Bay-Delta Authority California Department of Fish and Game**

*CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Ecosystem Restoration Program*

The Cottonwood Creek watershed and the Sacramento River Ecological Management Zone are identified as important ecological management areas in the [Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report](#) (CalFed 2000c). Historically the riparian corridor along the Sacramento River averaged 4 to 5 miles wide; today, only 5% of the riparian forests remain. The MCCWA is situated at the confluence of these two major hydrological systems, and although small in area, contributes to the overall goals enhancing riparian habitats within this region of California. The CDFG is one of the lead implementing agencies for the [Ecosystem Restoration Program](#).

### **California Department of Fish and Game**

*Cottonwood Creek Mitigation Bank Operational Plan*

The CDFG has a no net loss wetland policy and is a partner with the federal resource agencies to establish recommendations for their protection. The department owns the [Cottonwood Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank](#) and manages it on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USFWS, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the California Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and U.S. EPA. The Cottonwood Creek Mitigation bank consists of 22.21 acres of created wetlands habitats: 12.25 acres of semi-permanent wetlands, 5.63 acres of moist-soil wetlands, and 4.33 acres of permanent wetlands (CDFG, internal document).

### **California Department of Food and Agriculture**

*Shasta Cooperative Weed Management Area*

Weed Management Areas (WMA) are widely recognized as models for carrying out comprehensive and effective weed management programs on the ground. They are unique because they attempt to address agricultural (regulatory) weeds and “wildland” weeds under one local umbrella of organization. The intent is to bring together landowners and managers from various private, non-profit, county, state, and federal agencies, combining their expertise, energy, and resources to deal with a common problem. The [Shasta County WMA](#) has 21 signatories who are working together to manage weeds in the region. It provides printed weed identification/control brochures, organizes weed education events, writes and obtains grants, coordinates demonstration plots, and initiates joint eradication, mapping, outreach, and other effective weed management projects.

## California Environmental Protection Agency

### *California Wetlands Conservation Policy*

Established in 1993, the [California Wetlands Conservation Policy](#) is the guiding document behind the state's no net loss of wetlands. As the lead agency, the [California Environmental Protection Agency](#) (CalEPA) is responsible for helping state agencies achieve long-term net gains in the quantity, quality and permanence of California wetlands in a manner that fosters creativity, stewardship and respect for private property.

## California Oak Foundation

### *Oaks 2040: The Status and Future of Oaks in California*

Founded in 1988, the [California Oak Foundation](#) (COF) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit educational organization committed to preserving the state's oak forest ecosystem and its rural landscapes. Its premier planning document and tool is [Oaks 2040: The Status and Future of Oaks in California](#). The Foundation's programs include:

- Working with landowners, ranchers, farmers, developers, conservation organizations, estate planners and others to conserve oak woodlands, mitigate losses of biodiversity, plan responsibly for the urbanization pressures in California, and protect the state's critical watersheds and wildlife habitat.
- Educating children to be responsible stewards of California's oak woodlands by providing curricula to educators; developing the oak component of the "Cal Alive!" CD-ROM series for youth; publishing and distributing a new curriculum entitled "Investigating the Oak Community" aimed at children in grades 4 through 8.
- Enabling community members to work on local oak conservation issues by providing technical assistance, scientific and resource information, press and community outreach guidelines, and testimony.
- Advocating for responsible planning at the state, regional and local levels.
- Conducting ongoing public information programs through symposia, workshops and an extensive schedule of personal appearances and electronic outreach.

## California Partners in Flight

[California Partners in Flight](#) (CalPIF) was formed in 1992 with the full participation of the state's land and wildlife managers, scientists and researchers, and private organizations interested in the conservation of non-game landbirds. Noting that the major cause of population declines in California appeared to be habitat loss, CalPIF began identifying critical habitats important to birds and worked to protect and enhance remaining fragments of those habitats.

### *Draft Grassland Bird Conservation Plan*

The [Draft Grassland Bird Conservation Plan](#) (CalPIF 2000) is a collaborative effort of [CalPIF](#). It was developed to guide conservation policy and action on behalf of grassland habitats and birds. The geographic scope of this plan is the distribution of annual and native perennial grasslands in the state, which are found predominantly along the coast and in California's Great Central Valley.

### *Oak Woodland Bird Conservation Plan*

The [Oak Woodland Bird Conservation Plan](#) (CalPIF 2002) is another collaborative effort of CalPIF, developed to guide conservation policies and actions on behalf of oak woodlands habitats and wildlife. The plan is focused on bird species that are dependent upon oak habitats but the conservation recommendations have broad applicability for all oak woodland habitats and benefit many oak-woodland-dependent wildlife species. The Oak Woodland Conservation Bird Plan is meant to be a source of information for land managers, agencies and non-governmental organizations.

### *Guide to Habitat Enhancement for Birds in the Sacramento Valley*

CalPIF's "Bringing the Birds Back" habitat enhancement guides provide landowners and managers with practical steps they can take to improve bird habitat and overall ecosystem health on their lands. The [Guide to Habitat Enhancement for Birds in the Sacramento Valley](#) focuses on riparian (streamside) habitat throughout the Sacramento Valley. It provides specific recommendations to benefit birds in these habitats, including a list of suggested native plant species to plant, along with exotic species that should be removed. The guide also provide a list of bird species to look for that will help indicate a successful habitat enhancement project. Information about agencies and organizations that can help with technical and financial assistance in habitat enhancement is also provided.

### **Central Valley Joint Venture**

#### *North American Waterfowl Management Plan*

The [Central Valley Joint Venture](#) (CVJV) is one of 17 joint venture partnerships in the United States established under the [North American Waterfowl Management Plan](#) and funded under the annual Department of the Interior Appropriations Act. The CVJV brings together conservation organizations, public agencies, private landowners and other partners interested in the conservation of bird habitat within California's Central Valley. The CVJV mission is to work collaboratively through diverse partnerships to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and associated habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds and riparian songbirds, in accordance with conservation actions identified in its implementation plan.

### **Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group**

#### *Cottonwood Creek Watershed Management Plan*

The [Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group \(CCWG\)](#) is an organized group of landowners, business owners and other private parties committed to maintaining a healthy and productive watershed. CCWG was formed in 1998 through the volunteer efforts of landowners. Using CalFed grants, the CCWG has completed a watershed assessment (CH2MHill 2002) and a comprehensive hydrological assessment (Graham Matthews Associates 2003). More recently, the CCWG developed a comprehensive environmental education program for all schools in the watershed.

## **Riparian Habitat Joint Venture California Partners in Flight**

### *Riparian Bird Conservation Plan*

The [Riparian Habitat Joint Venture](#) (RHJV) mission is to provide leadership and guidance to promote the effective conservation and restoration of riparian habitats in California through the following goals:

- Identify and develop technical information based on sound science for a strategic approach to conserving and restoring riparian areas in California.
- Promote and support riparian conservation on the ground by providing guidance, technical assistance and a forum for collaboration.
- Develop and influence riparian policies through outreach and education (RHJV 2004).

To date, 18 federal, state and private organizations have signed the landmark cooperative agreement to protect and enhance habitats for native landbirds throughout California. The RHJV, modeled after the successful joint venture projects of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, reinforces other collaborative efforts currently underway aimed at protecting biodiversity and enhancing natural resources as well as the human element they support. The vision of the RHJV is to restore, enhance and protect a network of functioning riparian habitat across California to support the long-term viability of landbirds and other species.

A major achievement of the RHJV partnership is the development of a statewide [Riparian Bird Conservation Plan](#) (2004) based on current, scientifically valid data and the collective expertise of top ornithologists. This plan is the guidance document for RHJV riparian conservation and action.

## **Sacramento River Advisory Council Riparian Habitat Committee**

### *Sacramento River Conservation Area, Management Guidelines*

The overall goals of the [Sacramento River Conservation Area](#) (SB 1086) are to preserve remaining riparian habitat, reestablish a continuous riparian ecosystem along the Sacramento River between Redding and Chico, and reestablish riparian vegetation along the river from Chico to Verona. This will be accomplished through an incentive-based, voluntary river management plan (Sacramento River Advisory Council 2003). The Riparian Habitat Committee developed a set of management guidelines for the Sacramento River Conservation Area, including Shasta and Tehama counties, within the approximate 100-year designated floodplain. These categories are identified as follows: inner river zone guidelines, site-specific management planning guidelines, restoration priority guidelines, and Sacramento River GIS guidelines.

## **Shasta County**

### *Shasta County General Plan, Stream Corridor Protection Plan*

The Resource Management Section of the [Shasta County General Plan \(2004\)](#) identifies riparian woodland as the most ecologically significant plant community in the south-central portion of the county. To preserve this important resource, the county has adopted a [Stream Corridor Protection Plan](#) that emphasizes protection of riparian habitats from development and from adverse impacts from conflicting resource uses (ibid.). The county has also designated much of Cottonwood Creek as an area where spawning gravels shall be protected and has classified the creek and the area

within 0.5 miles of the Sacramento River as a “designated floodway.” Designated floodways are zones that are considered special flood hazards due to the velocity of the flood waters, debris, potential projectiles and erosion. Land uses within designated floodways need to minimize environmental impacts to riparian and wetland habitats, while protecting life and property (ibid.). The MCCWA is located within this land use area.

#### *Oak Woodland Management Guidelines*

Shasta County enacted voluntary [Oak Woodland Management Guidelines](#) in 1995. These guidelines are designed to encourage the retention of native oaks, brush piles, and snags (Shasta County 2004). The passing of the [Oak Woodlands Conservation Act](#) in 2001 added language to California Public Resources Code (§ 21083.4) related to oak woodland conservation. The act requires the consideration of oak woodland conversion as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Specifically, it requires that a county, in determining whether an environmental impact report, negative declaration, or mitigated negative declaration is prepared, specifically determine whether a project may result in a conversion of oak woodlands that will have a significant effect on the environment. If such a determination of significance is made, the county is required to implement one or more specified alternatives to mitigate the effect of woodland conversion. Mitigation options include the protection of existing oak woodland or the planting of trees.

#### **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game**

##### *Central Valley Project Conservation Program Habitat Restoration Program*

The 1992 [Central Valley Project Improvement Act](#) (CVPIA) specifically provided for anadromous fish and migratory waterfowl habitat improvements and required the U.S. Department of the Interior to address environmental impacts related to the construction and operation of water transfers through the Central Valley Project (CVP). The [Central Valley Project Conservation Program](#) (CVPCP) and [Habitat Restoration Program](#) (HRP) work together to protect endangered species and to protect and restore native fish and wildlife habitats that have experienced the greatest decline since construction of the CVP.

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

##### *Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act*

In 2000, the U.S. Congress passed the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 USC 6101-6 109) to:

1. perpetuate healthy populations of neotropical migratory birds,
2. assist in the conservation of neotropical migrants by supporting conservation initiatives in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and
3. provide financial resources and foster international cooperation for these initiatives.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Grant Program to implement the terms of this legislation.

### *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon*

In 2005, the USFWS developed the [Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems in California and Southern Oregon](#) specify the actions necessary for recovery and conservation of vernal pool ecosystems and associated species. The plan promotes natural ecosystem processes and functions by protecting and conserving intact vernal pools and vernal pool complexes to achieve self-sustaining, wild populations of listed species so they will no longer require protection under the Endangered Species Act. Although USFWS does not require species of concern to have recovery plans, they are included in this recovery plan because a community-level strategy provides opportunities for pre-listing conservation of species with needs similar to those of listed species.

### **University of California Cooperative Extension**

#### *Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program*

The [Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program \(IHRMP\)](#) was established in 1986 in response to concerns that oaks and oak woodlands in California weren't being managed properly and that the critical ecological values associated with these systems would be irretrievably lost if nothing was done. The IHRMP brings together several state institutions including the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), CAL FIRE, and CDFG to focus on research education related to hardwood management in California. Specific objectives of the IHRMP include:

- Developing methods to sustain hardwood ecosystems and landscapes
- Maintaining wildlife habitat on hardwood rangelands
- Restoring degraded hardwood rangelands
- Ensuring land-use planning utilizes available information to conserve hardwood range ecosystems
- Maintaining economically viable private hardwood rangeland enterprises Maintaining statewide information on trend, condition, and extent of hardwood rangelands
- Helping focus public awareness on the importance of hardwood rangeland habitats

### **Wildlife Conservation Board**

#### *California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program*

The [California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program \(CRHCP\)](#) was created within the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) by legislation in 1991. The program has a basic mission to develop coordinated conservation efforts aimed at protecting and restoring the state's riparian ecosystems. The goals of the CRHCP are to protect, preserve, restore and enhance riparian habitat throughout California.

#### *Inland Wetlands Conservation Program*

Administered by the WCB, the [Inland Wetlands Conservation Program \(IWCP\)](#) has a basic mission to create and implement conservation efforts that make economic as well as social and environmental sense. The creation of the IWCP recognized the importance of public and private partnerships in forming coalitions necessary to implement the very specific CVJV objectives. Working in conjunction with other CVJV partners, the program has proven to be highly effective at protecting and restoring wetlands in the Central Valley.

*Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program (General)*

The [Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program](#) funds projects outside the WCB's two main restoration programs: the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program and the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program. Included in the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program are restorations of fisheries, wetlands outside the Central Valley, native grasslands and forests. Eligible enhancement and restoration projects must provide for the long-term maintenance of the restored and/or enhanced habitat. Eligible applicants for restoration projects include nonprofit conservation organizations and federal, state or local governmental agencies. Habitat enhancement and restoration projects, like the acquisition and public access projects, are carried out pursuant to recommendations from CDFG. Restoration and public access projects may be located on department-owned or other lands.

*California Oak Woodlands Conservation Program*

In 2001, the California Legislature passed the California Oak Woodland Conservation Act (SB 1334). As a result of the act, the [Oak Woodlands Conservation Program](#) was established. This program, administered by WCB, is designed to provide \$10 million to help local jurisdictions protect and enhance their oak woodland resources. It offers landowners, conservation organizations, and cities and counties an opportunity to obtain funding for projects designed to conserve and restore California's oak woodlands. It authorizes the WCB to purchase oak woodland conservation easements and provide grants for land improvements and oak restoration efforts. It also provides funding for public education and outreach efforts to support the conservation of oak woodlands.